Windham Middle School Reading Article

**Plastic Mat Project Weaves Softer Nights for Homeless.**



Where: California

What: A group of women gather in a library and weave mats for the homeless people to sleep on.

[](http://sustainablog.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/homeless-man-sleeping.jpg)[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjf79HKkKnQAhWl5YMKHaLuBgEQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DhU3uBCgMaNA&psig=AFQjCNH4S9tDGrDBqEFaHTX1e1VqmelFrw&ust=1479243130114392)

What do the women make?

Where do the women make it?

Compare and contrast the two pictures. How are they different?

They make the mats out of plastic bags. They cut the plastic bags into strips.

What material do they use to make the mats?

Where do they get the plastic bags? Most of the women get the plastic bags from the grocery store or supermarket. They call the plastic strips PLARN. The PL is from plastic, and the ARN is from the word YARN. With the PLARN they make 6 foot long blankets. When the blankets are done, they bring them to the First United Methodist Church.

What does the word PLARN mean?

These blankets can also be used as sleeping mats.

What are the advantages of making mats out of Plarn? The mats are thicker than regular mats. Thus help keep the person off of the ground. They are also easier to clean then a blanket made out of wool.

Why are Plarn mats better than wool mats?

If you are homeless or forced to sleep outside, “bedtime” can mean laying on the wet or cold/damp ground. People do not like to sleep outside. It can be cold. It can be dangerous. The mats will not protect them from people, but they can help people feel warmer.

How do the mats help the homeless?

According to one person who helps make the mats, “These mats are well-received and highly prized.” This means that the people like the mats and want to keep them.

How do the homeless feel about these mats?